

27. The floor covering of claim 26, wherein said inhibitor is tolyltriazole.
28. The floor covering of claim 21, further comprising a top coat. 112
29. The floor covering of claim 28, wherein said top coat comprises acrylated urethane.
30. / The floor covering of claim 21, further comprising a strengthening layer.
31. The floor covering of claim 24, wherein a portion of said design layer comprises a non-retarder ink composition.
32. The floor covering of claim 24, wherein said mechanically embossed portion has a surface texture intended to provide a natural appearance and said design layer has a design intended to have a natural appearance. --

REMARKS

Claims 21-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request formal examination of this application and allowance of the pending claims at the Examiner's convenience.

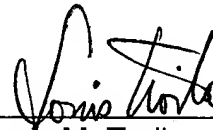
PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 3063.0396-04

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Preliminary
Amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-
0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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